



Department of Justice

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JULY 1, 2010

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SEX OFFENDER CONVICTED OF RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ALBANY, NY – Richard S. Hartunian, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, Andrew M. Cuomo, Attorney General of the State of New York, and Patrick Coultry, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations, announced today that JAMES RAMOS, 59, of Ballston Spa, New York, was convicted by a jury in U.S. District Court in Utica on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, following a three day trial. The jury found Ramos guilty of one count of receiving child pornography and two counts of possessing child pornography.

At trial, the government introduced evidence that Ramos had been on parole when he sought out and viewed images of child pornography on the Internet. An examination of a computer recovered from his residence resulted in the discovery of child pornography. At the time of his arrest, New York State parole officers found a second computer on his bed. Faces of children that had been digitally cut out and pasted onto the bodies of others engaging in sexual activity were found on the second computer.

Ramos is scheduled to be sentenced on November 12, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. in Utica before the Hon. David N. Hurd, United States District Court Judge. Ramos faces a mandatory

minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment, a maximum penalty of 40 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.00. He was detained pending his sentencing. Ramos was previously convicted in Saratoga County Court for the Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, and two counts of Sodomy in the Third Degree.

The investigation and prosecution of this individual are part of the United States' Project Safe Childhood (PSC) national initiative. PSC, which was officially launched in May of 2006, is a national initiative emphasizing the coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to prosecute those who sexually exploit children online. The goal of PSC is to enhance the national response to the growing threats to America's youth posed by online sexual solicitation, abuse, and child pornography. As technology improves and the Internet becomes more vast and accessible, the number of computer-facilitated sexual crimes against children continues to grow. According to one recent study, one in seven children, ages 10-17, who are regular Internet users are sexually solicited online. That translates to millions of kids, and it suggests that there are thousands of offenders whom we have not yet identified and brought to justice. In order to address this problem, the Department of Justice initiated PSC which generally consists of the following five components:

1. The creation of integrated partnerships of federal, state, and local law enforcement to investigate and prosecute offenders and identify, rescue, and assist victims;
2. Participation of these partnerships in coordinated national initiatives to pursue evidentiary leads sent out as a result of national operations;
3. Increased federal involvement in child exploitation cases so that all the

resources of the federal government are brought to bear to ensure that investigations of online child exploitation crimes are effectively conducted and that offenders receive optimal punishment for their crimes;

4. Training of federal, state, and local law enforcement to ensure that law enforcement keeps up with technological advances; and
5. Increased efforts to raise community awareness and educate the public about the dangers facing children from sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by technology.

One of the Department of Justice's partners in its effort to prevent the sexual exploitation of children is the New York State Attorney General's Office. As part of this effort, Attorney General Cuomo agreed to assign Assistant Attorney General Nancy Snyder to act as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in order to handle such investigations and prosecutions in federal court. Ms. Snyder is responsible for the prosecution of James Ramos.

The Department of Justice and the New York State Attorney General's Office are deeply committed to targeting and prosecuting sexual predators, abusers, and pornographers who target the most innocent and vulnerable of our society -- our children. For more information on PSC, visit the Department of Justice's website "projectsafechildhood.gov".

"My office is aggressively working to protect children from predators and all forms of exploitation, and our partnership with the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York is another tool in the arsenal," said Attorney General Cuomo.

Suspected sexual exploitation of children can be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) by telephone or e-mail as follows:

	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
NCMEC	1-800-843-5678	www.cybertipline.com

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations, Albany, New York, with the assistance of the New York State Division of Parole.

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